BOOM! STUDIOS™

JAMES TYNION IV

WERTHER DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL MUERTO

Nº 16

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

NO. I WON'T.

NOW, LISTEN--

I'M *NOT* DOING IT. I DON'T CARE HOW OLD SHE IS.

HEY. HOW OLD ARE YOU?

TWELVE.

I DON'T CARE THAT SHE'S TWELVE FUCKING YEARS OLD. SHE BASICALLY KILLED THE DAMN THING WITHOUT ME. BEFORE I SHOWED UP. WITH NO TRAINING.

I KNOW THAT, CECILIA. I KNOW HE'S GOING TO BE PISSED. WHEN ISN'T HE PISSED AT ME?

SHE *DOES* HAVE A TOTEM.

BECAUSE I MADE A FUCKING CALL, THAT'S WHY. SERIOUSLY, DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT.

THIS IS MY CALL. I'LL LIVE WITH IT.

AND SO WILL SHE.

BEEP

HEY.

HEY.

YOU DID REALLY GOOD.

YEAH?

YEAH. BETTER THAN I'VE EVER SEEN.

COOL.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO OCTO?

WELL... YOU KNOW THAT THING? THE BIG THING THAT WAS IN HERE.

YEAH.

KILLING EVERYBODY.

YEAH. MY MOM AND DAD. AND BECCA.

WELL. NOW IT'S IN THERE. WHERE IT CAN'T KILL ANYBODY ELSE.

OH.

REARG

DON'T TOUCH IT. IT'S STILL ANGRY THAT IT'S BEEN CAPTURED.

OKAY.

DO YOU HAVE TUPPERWARE?

TUPPERWARE?

LIKE SOME KIND OF BOWL WITH A TOP ON IT.

SOMETHING WE CAN STICK IT INTO, WHERE IT WON'T BE ABLE TO BOTHER US WITH ITS RACKET.

I THINK... IN THE CORNER?

YOU GOT IT, KID.

YEAH, THIS IS PERFECT.

REAAAAR

HUSH.

NOW, LISTEN... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

ERICA.

LISTEN, ERICA. THIS IS ALL GOING TO BE VERY SCARY, AND NONE OF IT IS FAIR. BUT YOUR MOM AND DAD AREN'T COMING BACK.

EVEN IF I LEFT YOU BEHIND, YOU'D HAVE TO GO WITH CHILD SERVICES...

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER OPTION. THERE ARE THINGS OUT THERE LIKE THE THINGS THAT KILLED YOUR MOM AND DAD AND YOUR FRIEND...

BECCA.

RIGHT. BECCA.

THERE ARE MORE THINGS LIKE THAT ONE OUT THERE, AND THEY HURT A LOT OF KIDS. BUT MOST OF THOSE KIDS, THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT BACK LIKE I JUST SAW YOU DO.

SO I THOUGHT... WHAT IF, INSTEAD OF LEAVING YOU BEHIND...WHAT IF I BROUGHT YOU HOME WITH ME.

AND I TAUGHT YOU HOW TO ***FIGHT*** THINGS LIKE THAT MONSTER AND KILL THEM, BEFORE THEY HAVE THE CHANCE TO HURT ANY MORE KIDS OR THEIR PARENTS.

WOULD YOU LIKE THAT, ERICA?

Y-YEAH. I THINK SO.

GOOD.

NOW...MY PEOPLE ARE GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT THE POLICE DON'T COME UNTIL WE WANT THEM TO. YOU CAN TAKE AS LONG AS YOU WANT.

PACK ANYTHING YOU WANT TO REMEMBER THEM BY. TAKE YOUR TIME, SAY GOODBYE TO EACH OF THEM.

SAYING GOODBYE IS IMPORTANT. IT'S HUMAN.

WHEN YOU'RE READY, WE'LL GO. OKAY?

ACTUALLY, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A SHOWER FIRST, HON.

YOU STINK.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN

IN HERE... WE HAVE TO HIDE IN HERE...

UNF!

ERICA? DON'T LET IT GET ME!

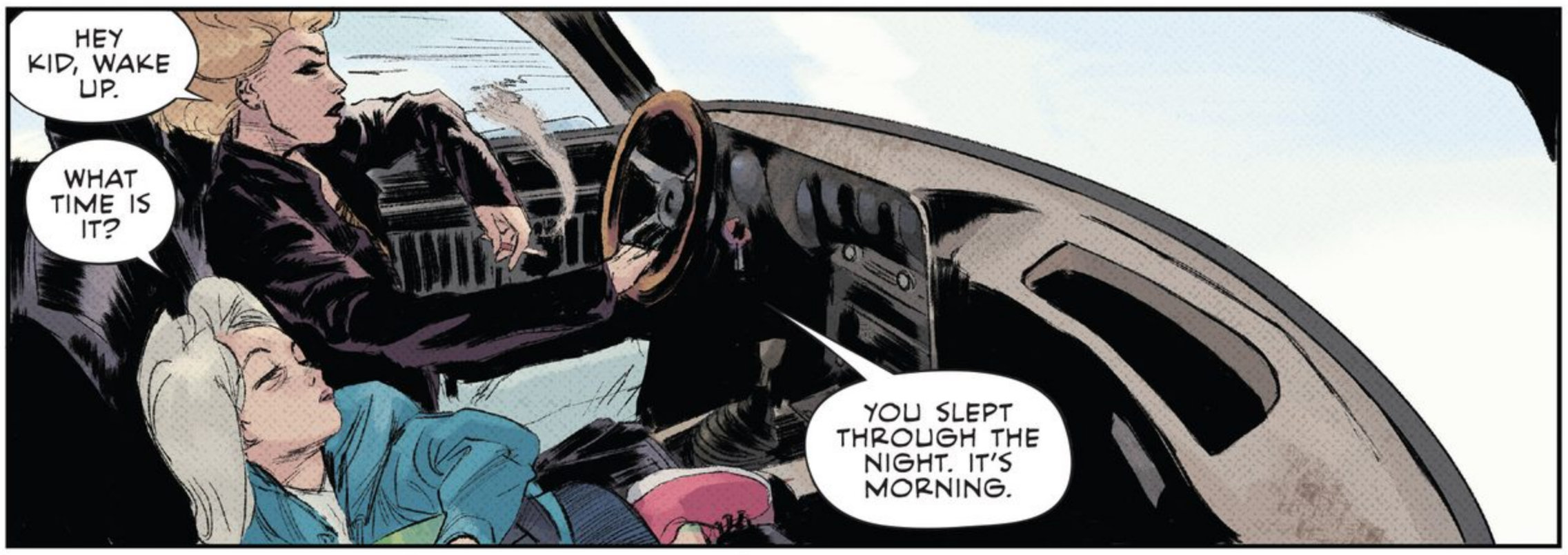
PLEASE DON'T LET IT GET ME!

BECCA!

AGK...

I'M SORRY. I'M SO SORRY.

gkugh


HEY KID, WAKE UP.
WHAT TIME IS IT?
YOU SLEPT THROUGH THE NIGHT. IT'S MORNING.

WHERE ARE WE?
MAKING OUR WAY INTO CHICAGO. SHOULD BE THERE SOON.
EVERYTHING IS SO TALL.

YEAH. I GUESS IT IS.

YOU EVER BEEN TO A BIG CITY BEFORE?
MY MOM TOOK ME TO NEW YORK ONCE.
THAT'S A GOOD CITY.
STOP
WE SAW THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.
THAT'S NICE.
DOES CHICAGO HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
WELL...NOT REALLY. THERE'S A REALLY GOOD AQUARIUM, THOUGH.
DO YOU LIKE FISH?
I LIKE OCTOPUSES.
AH.
MAYBE I'LL TAKE YOU TO GO SEE SOME OCTOPUSES THIS SUMMER.
OKAY.
RRRRRRRRRRRRRR*

WHY DO *YOU* SEEM NERVOUS?

HA!

YOU'RE PERCEPTIVE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MEAN YOU'RE SMART.

I DON'T... I DON'T GET GOOD GRADES OR ANYTHING.

GOOD GRADES DON'T MEAN YOU'RE SMART. GOOD GRADES MEAN YOU'RE GOOD AT ***FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS.***

I DIDN'T GET GOOD GRADES EITHER.

YEAH?

YEAH.

COOL.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M NERVOUS. I'M NOT GOING TO LIE. THE PLACE WE'RE GOING CAN BE A LITTLE SCARY.

AND THERE ARE THINGS YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO, TO BE INITIATED AS A ***HUNTER-IN-TRAINING,*** THAT ARE GOING TO BE HARD.

AND...SHIT, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT DELICATELY...LOOK, DID YOUR PARENTS MAKE YOU GO TO COTILLION OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

COTILLION?

MANNERS SCHOOL. LIKE... WHICH FORK TO EAT WITH. THAT KIND OF THING?

I KNOW HOW TO EAT WITH A FORK?

YEAH. NO.

OKAY, SO...YOU KNOW FANCY PEOPLE? LIKE THE SORT OF FANCY PEOPLE IN THE MOVIES. THE ONES WHO MAKE THEIR HOUSES LOOK LIKE A MUSEUM AND YOU CAN'T TOUCH ANYTHING.

NOT REALLY.

LOOK, THERE ARE GOING TO BE RULES THAT THE OTHER KIDS AND SOME OF THE ADULTS THERE ARE GOING TO WANT YOU TO KNOW AND WANT YOU TO FOLLOW.

AND THEY WERE RAISED KNOWING THOSE RULES, AND YOU WEREN'T. SO THEY'RE GOING TO BE LITTLE BULLIES ABOUT IT.

THAT'S GOING TO MAKE YOU FEEL BAD AND ANGRY, AND WHEN ***YOU*** SHOW THAT YOU FEEL BAD OR YOU FEEL ANGRY, THAT'S GOING TO BREAK ONE OF THEIR RULES.

IS THERE A LIST OF THE RULES?

NO.

THAT'S NOT FAIR.

NO, IT ISN'T. BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THAT THE BULLIES ARE JUST TRYING TO TRIP YOU UP, AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO BEAT THEM.

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

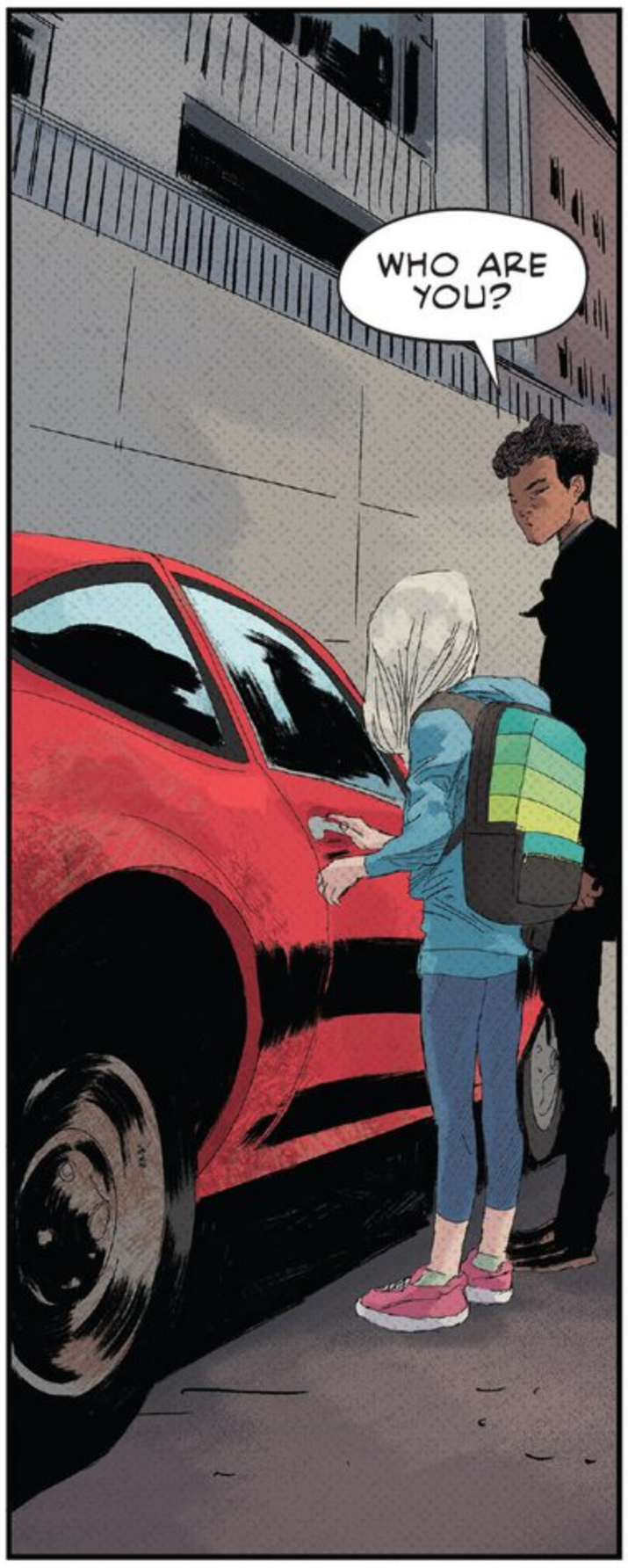
BECAUSE I'M PERCEPTIVE?

YEAH.

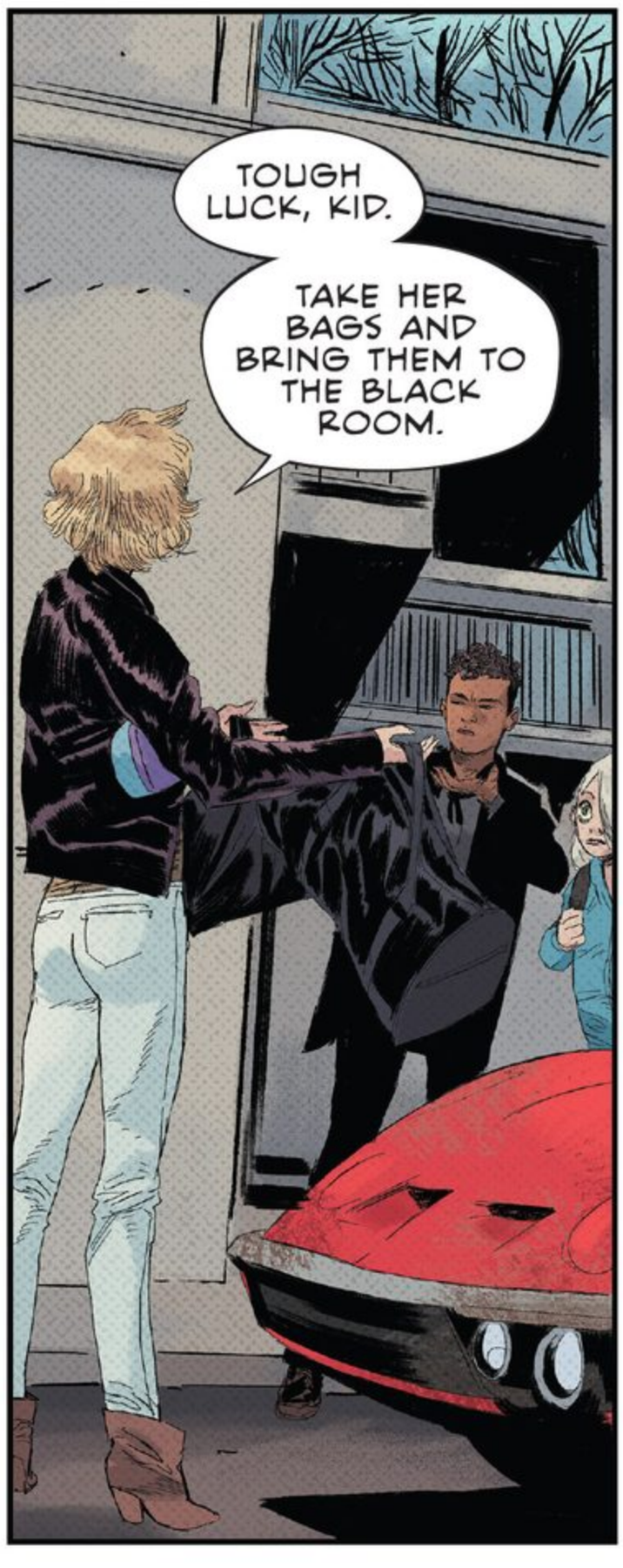
ANYWAYS... WE'RE HERE.

WHO IS *SHE?*

HELP HER WITH HER BAGS, AARON.


WHO ARE YOU?

SHE'S GOING TO BE YOUR SISTER.
I DON'T WANT A SISTER.


TOUGH LUCK, KID.
TAKE HER BAGS AND BRING THEM TO THE BLACK ROOM.

I'M ERICA.

GOOD FOR YOU.

IS HE ONE OF THE BULLIES?

NO. HE JUST PRETENDS HE IS BECAUSE THE BULLIES BULLY HIM.

CAN I BULLY HIM?

YEAH.

COOL.

JUST DO IT IN A NICE WAY.

LIKE NOT MEAN BULLYING. YOU KNOW? FRIEND BULLYING.

YEAH.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

HI, CECILIA. YES, IT ***WAS*** A LONG DRIVE, THANKS FOR ASKING. YES, I ***WOULD*** LOVE A NICE LONG BATH AND A GLASS OF WINE.

YOU CAN'T BRING HER IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.

THE HELL I CAN'T, CECILIA. I'VE BEEN DRIVING FOR TEN HOURS STRAIGHT.

SHE HASN'T BEEN INDUCTED AS AN INITIATE OF THE ***ORDER OF ST. GEORGE.*** SHE STILL HAS HER ***NAME.***

JESUS CHRIST.

I'M SORRY. THIS IS WHY THE REST OF US TRY NOT TO BRING HOME ***STRAYS.*** YOU'RE LUCKY SHE'S EVEN BEING LET INTO THE BUILDING.

WE'LL BEGIN THE INDUCTION RITES TOMORROW. OFF-SITE.

TOMORROW?!

CECILIA, SHE WATCHED HER PARENTS DIE LAST NIGHT. SHE'S STILL IN SHOCK--

WE'RE ALREADY BENDING THE RULES FOR YOUR STRAY.

HER NAME IS ERICA.

IS SHE ONE OF THE BULLIES?

OH, YES. SHE ABSOLUTELY IS.

YOU *KNOW* THIS IS THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME YOU COULD HAVE PICKED TO PULL THIS STUNT, JESSICA.

WE'LL GO THROUGH THE SERVICE ENTRANCE, AND HEAD DIRECTLY TO THE DRAGON'S OFFICE. HE WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

GREAT.

DRAGON?

I'M GUESSING YOU DON'T HAVE A SPARE BANDANA.

NOPE.

YOU'RE LUCKY *I* BROUGHT ONE, THEN.

YEAH. I'M REALLY, REALLY LUCKY.

CHILD. WHEN YOU ARE WALKING THE HALLS OF THE ***HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER,*** YOU NEED TO WEAR YOUR BANDANA AT ALL TIMES.

WHEN YOU'VE EARNED YOUR PLACE, YOUR BANDANA WILL HAVE ***TEETH,*** LIKE MINE OR JESSICA'S.

FOR NOW, YOU WILL JUST WEAR THE COLOR OF THE HUNTER INDUCTING YOU. ***BLACK.***

I WAS GOING TO EXPLAIN ALL OF THIS WHEN WE GOT TO THE ROOM.

OKAY, ERICA...
WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER.
WELCOME *HOME.*

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"ME AND MY MONSTER"
PART ONE

WRITTEN BY
JAMES TYNION IV

ILLUSTRATED BY
WERTHER DELL'EDERA

COLORED BY
MIQUEL MUERTO

LETTERED BY
ANDWORLD DESIGN

COVER BY
WERTHER DELL'EDERA

VARIANT COVERS BY
JENNY FRISON
TONI INFANTE

UNLOCKABLE VARIANT COVER BY
WERTHER DELL'EDERA

DESIGNER
MICHELLE ANKLEY

ASSISTANT EDITOR
RAMIRO PORTNOY

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JONATHAN MANNING

EDITOR
ERIC HARBURN

SPECIAL THANKS GWEN WALLER

SOMETHING IS KILLING THE CHILDREN CREATED BY JAMES TYNION IV & WERTHER DELL'EDERA

BOOM! STUDIOS
WWW.BOOM-STUDIOS.COM

SOMETHING IS KILLING THE CHILDREN No. 16, May 2021. Published by BOOM! Studios, a division of Boom Entertainment, Inc., 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679. Something is Killing the Children is ™ & © 2021 James Tynion IV & Werther Dell'Edera. All rights reserved. BOOM! Studios™ and the BOOM! Studios logo are trademarks of Boom Entertainment, Inc., registered in various countries and categories. All characters, events, and institutions depicted herein are fictional. Any similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, events, and/or institutions in this publication to actual names, characters, and persons, whether living or dead, events, and/or institutions is unintended and purely coincidental. BOOM! Studios does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. **PRINTED IN CANADA.**

BOOM! STUDIOS™

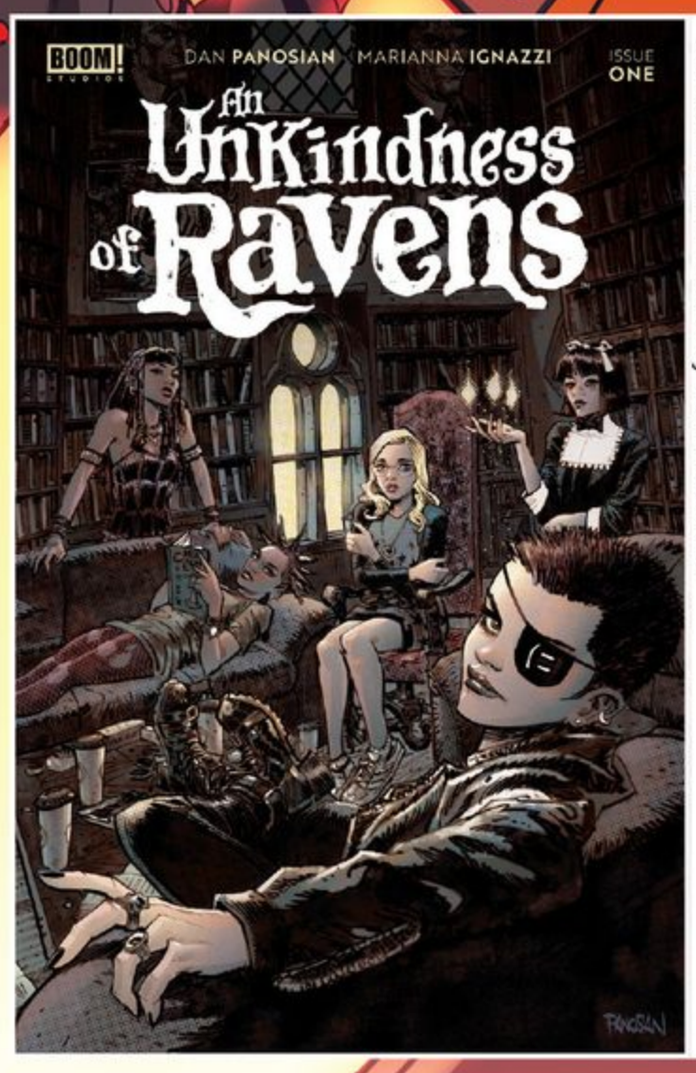
NEW RELEASES

"EVERYTHING YOU COULD WANT FROM A COMIC BOOK. TRULY."
—**SCOTT SNYDER,** *BATMAN*

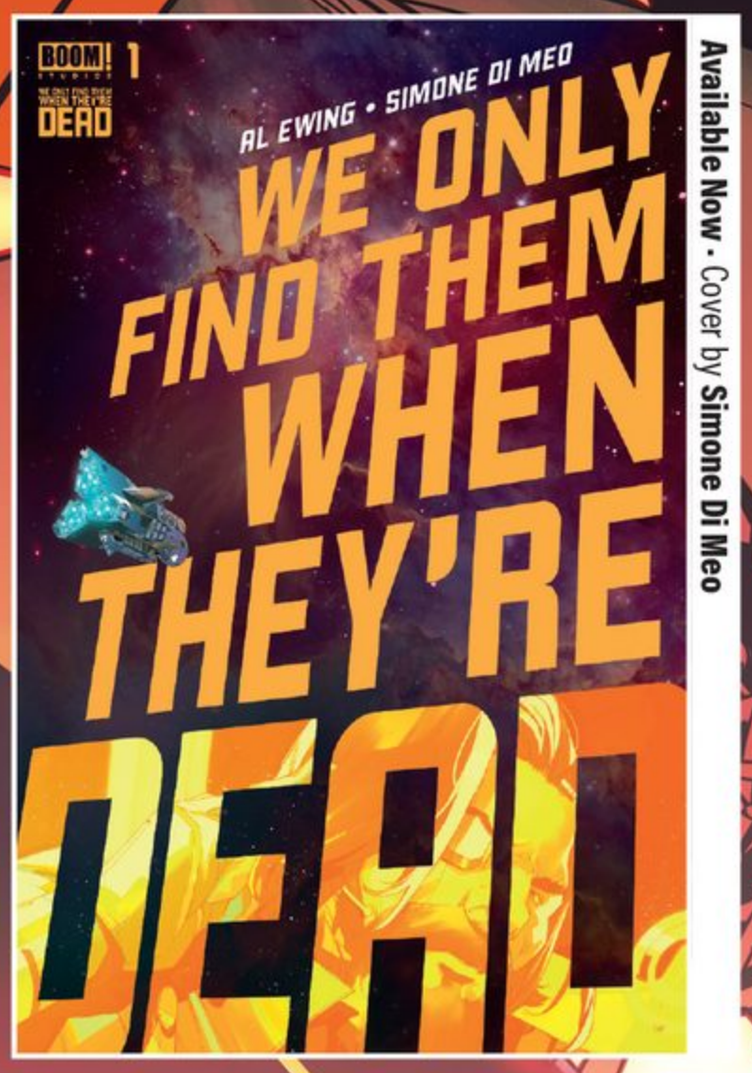
FROM **TOM TAYLOR** *(DCEASED)*
AND **DANIELE DI NICUOLO**
(MIGHTY MORPHIN POWER RANGERS)

SEVEN SECRETS

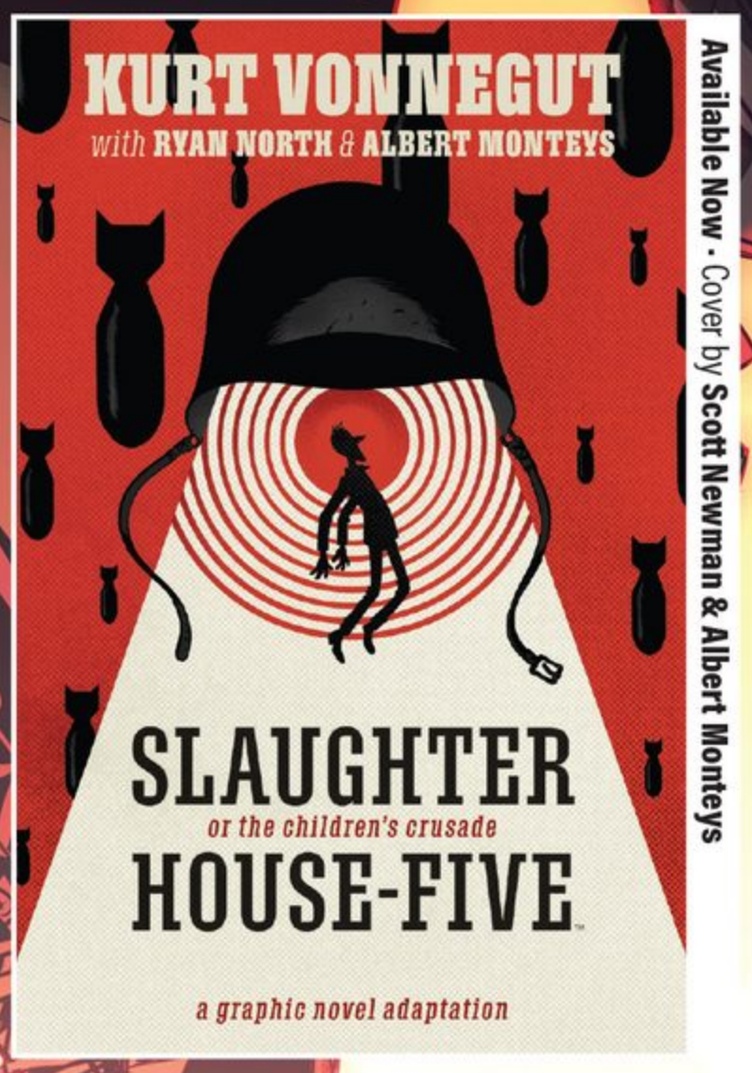
AVAILABLE NOW COVER BY **DANIELE DI NICUOLO**



Available Now • Cover by **Dan Panosian**



Available Now • Cover by **Simone Di Meo**



Available Now • Cover by **Scott Newman & Albert Monteys**

BOOM! STUDIOS **DISCOVER** YOURS

/BOOMStudiosComics /boomstudios /boom_studios boomstudios.

Ross Richie CEO & Founder • **Joy Huffman** CFO • **Matt Gagnon** Editor-in-Chief • **Filip Sablik** President, Publishing & Marketing • **Stephen Christy** President, Development • **Lance Kreiter** Vice President, Licensing & Merchandising • **Bryce Carlson** Vice President, Editorial & Creative Strategy • **Kate Henning** Director, Operations **Spencer Simpson** Director, Sales • **Scott Newman** Manager, Production Design • **Elyse Strandberg** Manager, Finance • **Sierra Hahn** Executive Editor • **Jeanine Schaefer** Executive Editor • **Dafna Pleban** Senior Editor • **Shannon Watters** Senior Editor • **Eric Harburn** Senior Editor • **Sophie Philips-Roberts** Associate Editor **Amanda LaFranco** Associate Editor • **Jonathan Manning** Associate Editor • **Gavin Gronenthal** Assistant Editor • **Gwen Waller** Assistant Editor • **Allyson Gronowitz** Assistant Editor • **Ramiro Portnoy** Assistant Editor • **Kenzie Rzonca** Assistant Editor • **Shelby Netschke** Editorial Assistant • **Michelle Ankley** Design Lead **Marie Krupina** Production Designer • **Grace Park** Production Designer • **Chelsea Roberts** Production Designer • **Samantha Knapp** Production Design Assistant • **José Meza** Live Events Lead • **Stephanie Hocutt** Digital Marketing Lead • **Esther Kim** Marketing Lead • **Breanna Sarpy** Live Events Coordinator • **Amanda Lawson** Marketing Assistant **Morgan Perry** Retail Sales Lead • **Holly Aitchison** Digital Sales Coordinator • **Megan Christopher** Operations Coordinator • **Rodrigo Hernandez** Operations Coordinator • **Zipporah Smith** Operations Coordinator • **Jason Lee** Senior Accountant • **Sabrina Lesin** Accounting Assistant • **Lauren Alexander** Administrative Assistant

BOOM! STUDIOS DISCOVER YOURS

IN STORES NOW

WWW.BOOM-STUDIOS.COM

BRZRKR is ™ & © 2021 74850, Inc. All rights reserved.

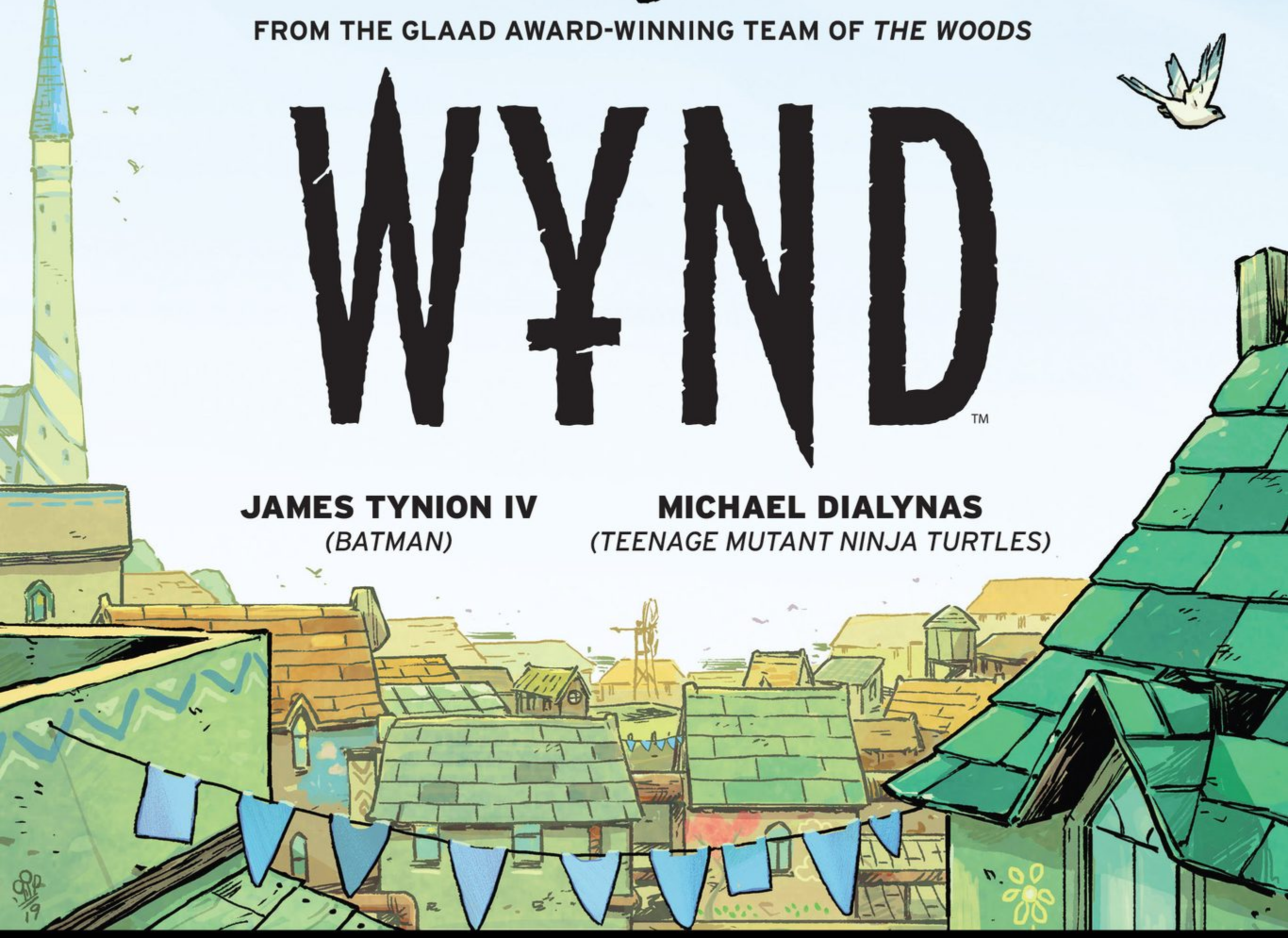
YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR HOME UNTIL YOU FIND YOURSELF

FROM THE GLAAD AWARD-WINNING TEAM OF *THE WOODS*

WYND™

JAMES TYNION IV
(BATMAN)

MICHAEL DIALYNAS
(TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES)



BOOM! STUDIOS™ DISCOVER YOURS

IN STORES **NOW**

WWW.**BOOM-STUDIOS**.COM

WYND ™ & © 2021 James Tynion IV & Michael Dialynas. All Rights Reserved.

FROM WRITER

TOM TAYLOR

(DCEASED, INJUSTICE)

AND ARTIST

DANIELE DI NICUOLO

(MIGHTY MORPHIN POWER RANGERS)

"Everything you could want from a comic book. Truly."

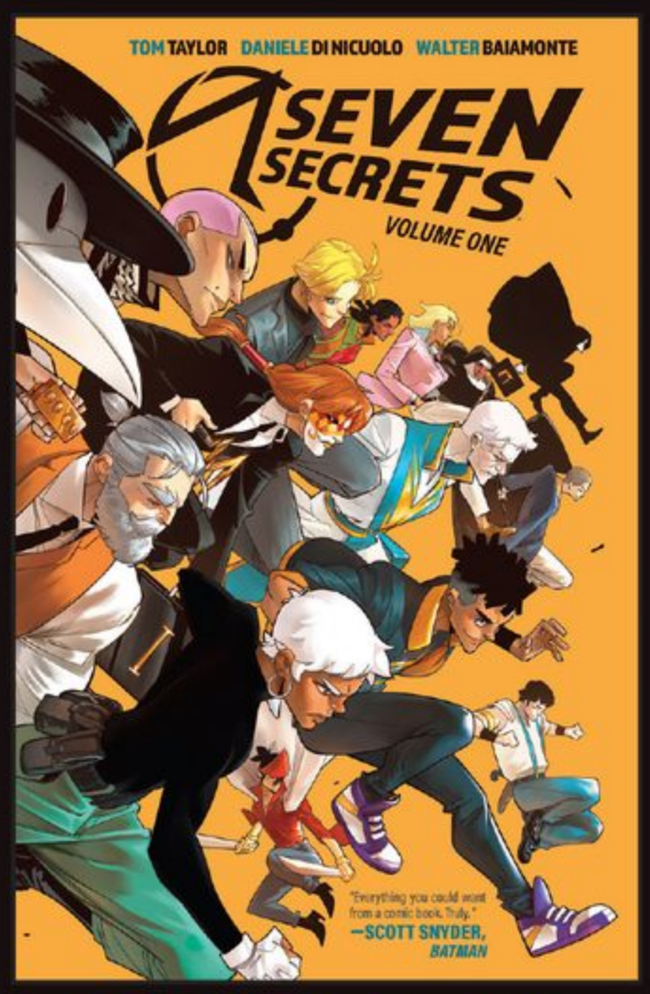
—Scott Snyder

(Dark Nights: Death Metal)

"You're all gonna love this book"

—Donny Cates

(Venom)


TOM TAYLOR DANIELE DI NICUOLO WALTER BAIAMONTE
SEVEN SECRETS
VOLUME ONE
"Everything you could want from a comic book. Truly."
—SCOTT SNYDER, BATMAN

VOLUME 1 ON SALE

APRIL 2021

SEVEN SECRETS™

BOOM! STUDIOS™ **DISCOVER** YOURS

SEVEN SECRETS 2021 © & ™ Tom Taylor. All rights reserved.

/BOOMStudiosComics /boomstudios

/boom_studios boomstudios.

WWW.**BOOM-STUDIOS**.COM

ONCE & FUTURE™

NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLING WRITER
KIERON GILLEN
(DIE, THE WICKED + THE DIVINE)

RUSS MANNING
AWARD–WINNING ARTIST
DAN MORA
(BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, POWER RANGERS: SHATTERED GRID)

EISNER AWARD
NOMINATED COLORIST
TAMRA BONVILLAIN
(CAPTAIN MARVEL, DOOM PATROL)

PAWN

BOOM! STUDIOS™ **DISCOVER** YOURS

IN STORES
NOW

WWW.**BOOM-STUDIOS**.COM

ONCE & FUTURE ™ & © 2021 Kieron Gillen Limited. All Rights Reserved.

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"